

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RABAT 00979 160901Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 HA-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-12
/121 W

-----038001 162320Z /73

R 160801Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4554
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0979

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, MO, ET, SO, XA
SUBJ: MOROCCAN VIEWS ON THE HORN OF AFRICA

1. MOROCCAN MEDIA AND PRIVATE COMMENTARY HAVE BEGUN WITH GREATER FREQUENCY TO FOCUS ON THE SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. THIS COMMENTARY INVARIABLY LAMENTS U.S. "INDECISION" IN THE FACE OF WHAT IS UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED TO BE THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF SOVIET PENETRATION OF THE CONTINENT. CONCERN IS ON THE RISE AMONG MOROCCANS OVER HOW MUCH SUPPORT, IF ANY, FORCES OPPOSED TO THE SOVIETS ON THE CONTINENT CAN COUNT ON RECEIVING FROM THE U.S.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RABAT 00979 160901Z

2. BEHIND MOROCCO APPREHENSION OVER THE GEOPOLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF MORE SOVIETS INROADS IN AFRICA ALSO LIE A NUMBER OF PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS. FIRST IS INCREASING INVOLVEMENT IN THE SOMALI CONFLICT OF SOME OF ITS BEST FRIENDS, NOTABLY EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA. (A WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT DELEGATION, HEADED BY FRONT SECRETARY GENERAL ABDALLAH

HASSAN MAHMOUD, IS CURRENTLY VISITING RABAT.) IN ADDITION, THE MOROCCANS FIND AN IDEOLOGICAL AFFINITY WITH THEIR SAHARA STANCE IN THE SOMALI RATIONALE OF REESTABLISHING "TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY." THIS GOES BACK TO THE 1964 CAIRO OAU SUMMIT, WHEN THE TWO COUNTRIES POSED RESERVATIONS ON THE OAU "MAINTANCE OF COLONIAL FRONTIERS" RESOLUTION. (THIS PRINCIPLE IS CONTRADICTED, OF COURSE, IN THE ERITREAN SITUATION, WHICH EXPLAINS A CERTAIN MOROCCAN RETICENCE ON THAT QUESTION DESPITE PRESSURES ON MOROCCO FOR MORE ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR THE ERITREAN REBELS FROM SUCH QUARTERS AS TUNISIA AND SUDAN. AS THE SITUATION POLARIZES, HOWEVER, THERE MAY BE AN INCREASING TENDENCY FOR THE GOM TO SUPPORT THE ERITREANS.)

3. SEMI-OFFICIAL MAROC-SOIR EDITORIAL FEBRUARY 14 ATTEMPTED TO BRIDGE THE CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE SAHARA AND OGADEN" ERITREA EUQATION BY CLAIMING THAT THE "WILL OF THE POPULATIONS" OF EACH TERRITORY WAS EXPRESSING ITSELF. PIECE ALSO SPOKE OF THE "SHIRKING OF RESPONSIBILITIES"". THE BYZANTINE ATTITUDE OF THOSE WHO CLAIM TO BE DEFENDERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HESITATE OVER WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT." A CABINET MEMBER RECENTLY UPBRAIDED EMBOFF IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION OVER THE U.S.'S "FAILURE" TO ACT AGAINST SOVIET AGGRESSION IN THE HORN. HE GRANTED THAT SOMALI "AGGRESSION" MIGHT BE A LEGITIMATE DETERRENT TO OUR SUPPORT OF SOMALI FOR THE MOMENT, BUT PROFESSED TO FAIL TO UNDERSTAND WHY WE DID NOT RECOGNIZE -- AND ACT ON -- THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF ERITREA TO THE ARAB

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 RABAT 00979 160901Z

WORLD.

4. THE GOM, AS IN THE PAST, WILL NEVERTHELESS CONTINUE TO KEEP ITS LINES OPEN TO THOSE IT SEES A MISCHIEF-MAKERS AS AN INSURANCE POLICY. ITS RECENT DECISION TO MOVE TOWARD AN EVENTUAL AGREEMENT ON THE IMPORTANT MESKALA PHOSPHATE PROJECT WITH THE SOVIETS IS ONE EXAMPLE OF THIS STRATEGY, AS IS ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CUBANS. RESPONSIBLE FONOFF OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF FEBRUARY 14 THAT A NEW CUBAN AMBASSADOR WAS DUE SOON AND THAT THE GOM WOULD RECEIVE HIM DESPITE THE CUBANS' WORRISOME ACTIVITIES ON THE CONTINENT IN THE HOPE OF KEEPING THE CUBANS IN LINE ON THE SAHARA DISPUTE. MEANWHILE, OFFICIAL GOM COMMENTARY HAS BEEN CIRCUMSPECT IN REFERENCES TO OGADEN, AVOIDING SO FAR ANY EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO SOVIET/CUBAN ACTIVITIES.

ANDERSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978RABAT00979
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780072-0740
Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780246/aaaabnfl.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e87447d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3571960
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOROCCAN VIEWS ON THE HORN OF AFRICA
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, MO, ET, SO, XA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e87447d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014